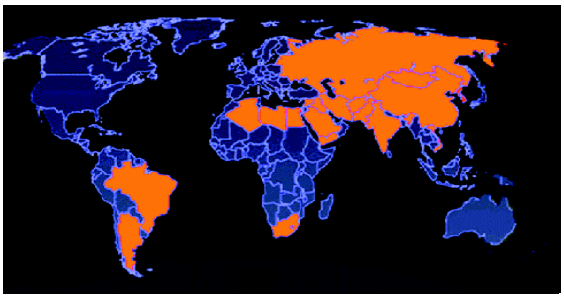
SBIRS Overview

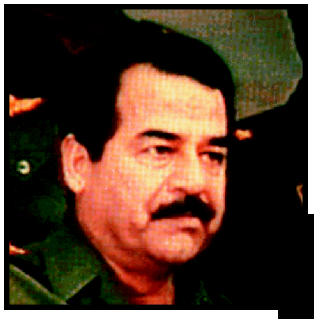
-- The Threats --

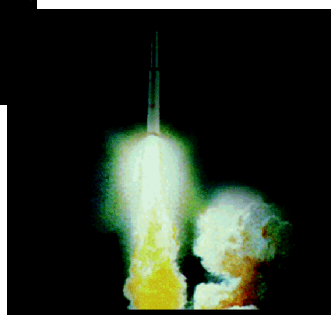
During the Cold War, the two superpowers aimed their vast arsenals of ICBMs at each other and the concept of Mutual Assured Destruction deterred nuclear war. In order to provide warning of a first strike attack by the Soviet Union, the United States constructed a vast network of surveillance posts, radar sites, and satellite systems. One of these systems was a constellation of infrared satellites in geostationary orbit called the Defense Support Program. First launched in November 1970, and still operational today, DSP's primary mission is to detect rockets in their boost phase and to report them to the National Command Authority.



Non-NATO Countries with Short- and Intermediate-Range Missiles

As the Cold War ended, missile threats and challenges changed. Instead of a mass ICBM strike from the USSR against the U.S. mainland, tomorrow's threats come primarily from potential rogue nations and terrorist groups that have acquired theater and ballistic missile technology with nuclear, chemical and biological warheads. *"The continued proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction... calls for enhanced theater missile defenses and space-based capabilities that will protect U.S. forces, support strategy, and facilitate warfighting."* — *General Peay, Commander, U.S. Central Command.*





An ICBM attack from former Soviet Republics or China is still possible, and fundamental shifts in internal political power within these countries could easily throw the world back into a Cold War scenario; therefore, we must still maintain the capability to provide early warning against ICBM attacks.

With the threats to U.S. forces evolving, so too must the weapon systems used to combat them.

-- The Missions --

In order to meet the needs of future conflicts, four primary missions have been allocated to SBIRS.

1. **Missile Warning** — Utilizing over 25 years experience on DSP and state-of-the-art technology, missile warning capabilities will significantly increase, and space based platforms will provide better missile warning information to commanders.
2. **Missile Defense** — This mission will be satisfied by using space based infrared platforms to track targets from initial boost phase through mid-course, and this data will be relayed to interceptors.
3. **Technical Intelligence** — Using multiple platforms, space based infrared sensors will provide valuable data necessary for missile characterization, phenomenology and other target data.
4. **Battlespace Characterization** — Capitalizing on the advantages of space based infrared sensors, commanders will be able to assess battle damage and track infrared-intense events to improve battlefield situational awareness.